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VIEW FROM THE UPPER TERRACE, CAPITOL GROUNDS.

WASHINGTON IN 1859.

BY referring to the number of *Harper's Magazine* published in December, 1852, our readers will find an accurate portrayal of the Federal Capital as it then appeared. We know of no fact which can supply so much reason for the patriotic pride of every citizen as the immense changes which, even in the short period that has since elapsed, our political metropolis has undergone. Seven years of American progress might furnish material for an epic. We count our cycles not by centuries but by months. It is a wonderful thing, and instructive, to be permitted to witness the process of that new crea-

tion which records the work of its days in the completion of stately marble palaces and lofty domes; it is also a very inspiring thing to feel that every grand building, every noble avenue, and the constantly repeated demands for a broader area of beauty, are but faint symbols of the working of that mighty providential fiat which, from the chaos of a continent overbrooded by the still darkness of barbarism, has in two short centuries called forth villages, towns, cities, states—a whole nation—full of restless enterprise, and led continually forward by the prompting of some yet unrecognized purpose. During the last five years Washington has made amazing strides toward permanent grandeur; and al-

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ready the "City of Magnificent Distances" has become more remarkable for its magnificence than for its distances. No longer are our legislators compelled to wade through a morass in order to pass from the Capitol to the White House, and the sportsman must find his quarry in regions more remote than the Centre-Market, although malice asserts that some incipient Nimrods still find that the surest place to obtain their game.

Before entering upon a description of the beautiful public buildings which have recently lent such a marked improvement to the capital, perhaps it may be well to rescue from dusty archives, and to place on record where they will be forever accessible to the people, some of the facts which attended the selection of Washington for the seat of the Federal Government.

During the Revolution the Continental Congress sat for the most part at Philadelphia, although it was compelled by the movements of the British army to vacate that city, and to pass through a migratory career at Baltimore, Lancaster, York, Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton, and New York. The Federal Government, under the present Constitution, was inaugurated at New York in 1789. At the first session, which commenced immediately, petitions came in from various town and state governments in regard to the permanent location of the seat of Government. The Eastern States and New York were opposed to the premature agitation of the question when there were other measures which their representatives considered of greater national importance demanding immediate attention. Among these important matters was the proposition to assume the debts of the States by the Federal Government—a measure in which the New England States were doubly interested: first, because, as they alleged, they had made the greatest pecuniary sacrifices in support of the war; and, secondly, because their citizens were in possession of an undue share of state securities. They were also averse to the removal of the capital to any point south of New York; and the latter State, as a matter of course, concurred with them in this policy. Pennsylvania was divided between Philadelphia and a point on the Susquehanna called Wright's Ferry, not far from Havre de Grace. New Jersey was for Philadelphia; Delaware would perhaps have preferred a point lower down the river; Maryland was divided in its preferences between Baltimore and some point on the Potomac. The Southern States, including Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, were unanimous for the Potomac.

In the first session the House passed a resolution for the permanent establishment of the seat of Government at Wright's Ferry, on the Susquehanna, as soon as suitable buildings could be erected; and in the mean time the Government was to remain at New York. This resolution was matured into a bill and was sent to the Senate, where it was amended by the substitution of Germantown for Wright's Ferry. Going back

to the House, this important amendment was agreed to. But an amendment being added, that the laws of Pennsylvania were to remain in force until repealed by Congress, by preventing the immediate consummation of the plan, spoiled Germantown of its destiny. The Senate, availing itself of this trifling amendment, postponed the whole subject until the next session of Congress.

In the mean time, before the meeting of the next Congress, the Legislature of Virginia adopted a resolution offering ten miles square of its territory on the Potomac to the Federal Government for the location of the capital. It also offered one hundred and twenty thousand dollars for the erection of public buildings on condition that the offer of territory, or a portion of it, should be accepted. At the suggestion of the Virginia authorities, Maryland made a similar offer of territory with seventy-two thousand dollars. The Southern people were deeply aroused and agitated about the subject; and Mr. Madison said that Virginia would not have ratified the Constitution except with the understanding that the seat of Government was to be located south of Pennsylvania.

A compromise was at length agreed upon. The capital was to be permanently located at some point on the Potomac "between the East Branch and some point on the Conecogague;" and until suitable buildings could be erected, the Government was to reside at Philadelphia. By an amendment, the ten miles square might extend below the mouth of the East Branch, so as to include Alexandria on the Virginia side of the main Western Branch, but the public buildings were to be on the Maryland side. The unpronounceable Conecogague, which is "named in the bill," was forgotten in the execution of its provisions, and is practically as far from the seat of government as the jilted Germantown; and, we believe, it has never ceased to murmur its discordant complaints to the hills and gorges of Washington County, Maryland, beyond the Blue Ridge.

Immediately after the settlement of this question the Funding Act, with an amendment providing for the assumption of the State debts to the amount of twenty-one millions, was taken up in the House and passed, "two members representing Potomac districts" changing their votes and coming to its support. "Others," says Judge Marshall, "would have done likewise if necessary to carry the bill." He subjoins, by way of apology, that the gentlemen who changed their votes were understood to have been all the while favorable to the policy of assumption; but if the capital was to be located north of Maryland, they were opposed to any measure calculated to strengthen the Federal Government.

Mr. Jefferson, whose writings were not published until long after Judge Marshall wrote, gives a full explanation of the transaction in his "Anas," substantially agreeing with the above, except as to the feelings which governed the "Potomac members" in changing their votes.

He states that never, in his day, was the Union so near its dissolution as at the date of the above transactions. The most serious grounds of sectional discord were the questions of assuming the State debts and the location of the capital. The North laid great stress upon the former, the South upon the latter. The President and Cabinet were at their wit's ends for some plan of adjustment. He (Mr. Jefferson), then Secretary of State, met Mr. Hamilton, the Secretary of the Treasury, opposite the President's mansion. The latter, with an air of grave solicitude, took Mr. J.'s arm, and walked him back and forth for half an hour in earnest conversation upon the perplexing state of affairs. Hamilton thought that an accommodation or compromise might be effected by connecting the two vexed questions with each other. Jefferson, who had just returned home after a long residence in Europe, was wholly unacquainted with the financial affairs of the country, and complains that General Hamilton tricked him into the support of his plans. At any rate he invited General Hamilton to dine with him the next day, and promised to have other parties present who could join in the friendly conference. He only listened, or exhorted to moderation. Hamilton thought if the South would concede the assumption of the State debts, the North would consent to the location of the capital on the banks of the Potomac. "So," says Mr. Jefferson, "two of the Potomac members (White and Lee; but White with a revulsion of stomach almost convulsive) agreed to change their votes, and Hamilton undertook to carry the other point."

Hildreth connects the name of Robert Morris with that of Hamilton in the negotiation of this compromise, and concedes to the former the merit of its suggestion. We may observe, in passing, that, according to Mr. Jefferson's own statement of the case, it is difficult to understand how he was cheated by Hamilton into the office of "candle-holder" to his plans of stock-jobbing. The matters seem to have been arranged in the most business-like manner, with no other disagreeable incident than the "convulsive revulsion of stomach" of one of the "Potomac members;" whose travail, considering that he was giving birth to a great capital, will excite but little wonder.

Washington is situated at the head of tide-water and of navigation—or, more accurately, these points are included within the District of Columbia, but extend a short distance above the city. The ebb of the tide is arrested at the Little Falls, about three miles above the corporate limits, and navigation ceases at Georgetown, which is separated from Washington by Rock Creek, the streets of the two places being connected by the bridges which cross the stream. On the east the city is bounded by the East Branch, a small tributary from the northeast, which, penetrated by the tides, was formerly navigable for sloops as far as Bladensburg, six miles from the Capitol. Seventy-five years ago this town shipped tobacco to London; but for

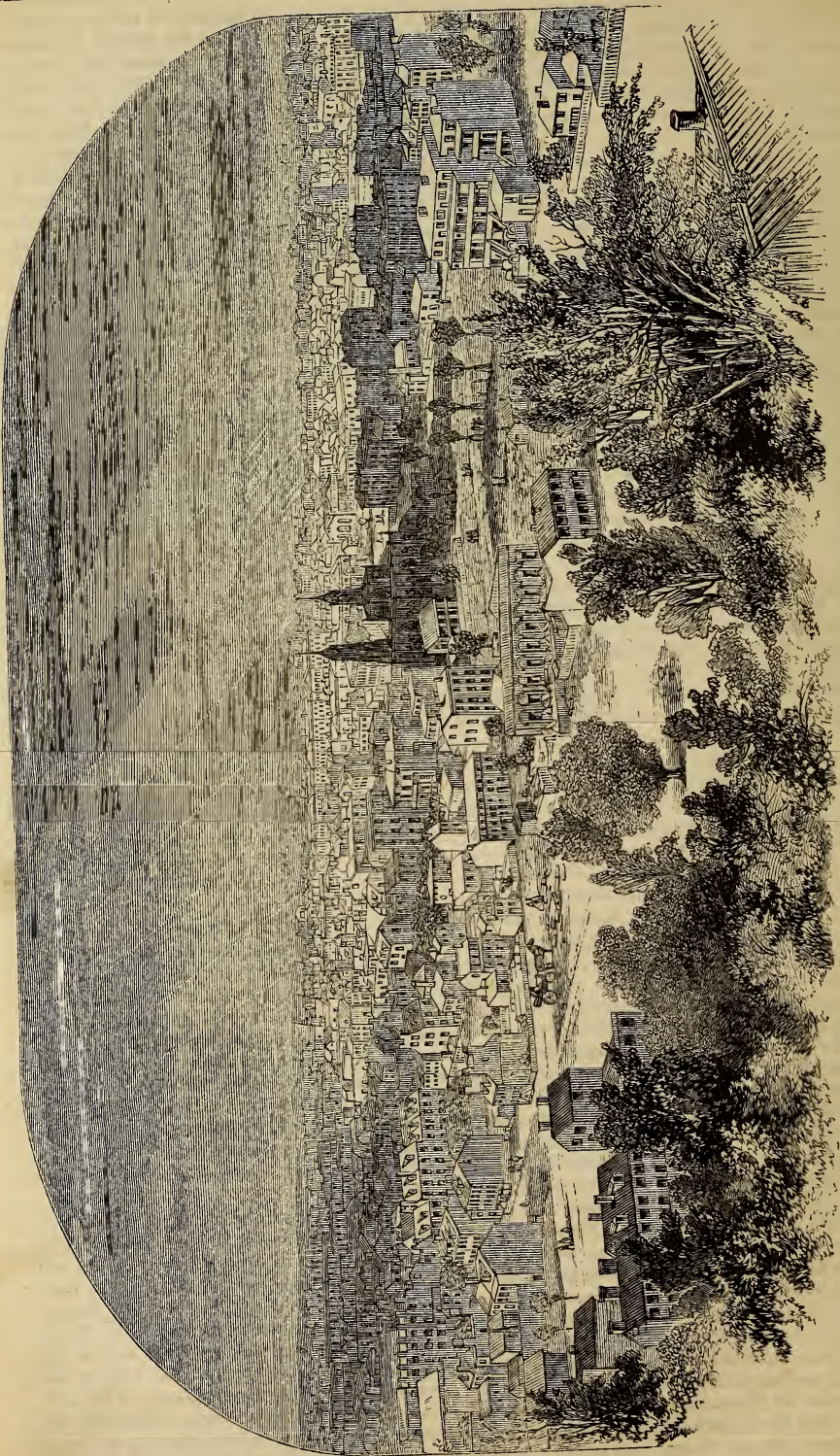
many years past all navigation, except by canal boats, propelled by poles, has ceased, in consequence of the filling of the channel with the accumulated washings of the neighboring fields. The town, however, notwithstanding its traditional glories as a sea-port engaged in the foreign trade, probably never had more population than at the present moment—viz., about five hundred.

Georgetown was, and still is, a place of much higher pretensions. Like Bladensburg, its commercial glories have departed. It no longer boasts of its commerce with London and Liverpool; although the harbor is good, and it still carries on a languid West India and coasting trade in coal and flour; with return cargoes of groceries, furniture, etc. The population increases slowly, and is now two or three times greater than when the town had a brisk and prosperous foreign trade. As a suburb of Washington it is destined to become famed for its princely private residences, the abodes of foreign ministers and wealthy citizens.

Alexandria, town and county, which were included within the original limits of the District, were, in 1846, retroceded to Virginia. It is difficult to understand why they were made a part of it, in the first instance, coupled with the condition that no public buildings were to be erected on that side of the river. Since its re-annexation to Virginia its prospects have greatly improved. The State has granted charters to railroads terminating at this point, which were refused so long as it remained a foreign territory; and these works have been prosecuted with vigor. The improvement in trade has been marked; and the town has now a population of about fifteen thousand. It has a high and healthy location, with a fine grain-growing region back of it, which is rapidly improving under the spur of railroad facilities as well as of Northern immigration.

The situation of Washington itself is one of great beauty. From the top of the Capitol, or of the unfinished Washington Monument, the city is seen to be situated in an amphitheatre surrounded by graceful hills on the east, north, and west; while on the south the broad and beautiful Potomac opens out a magnificent vista, where placid waters mirror the hills and tree-tops of Virginia and Maryland for many miles. The view down the river, of a fine summer morning or afternoon, from any elevated point in Washington or Georgetown, is one of surpassing loveliness.

But the most essential advantage of position possessed by Washington is the salubrity of its climate. No city in America of equal age and population, perhaps, has suffered so little from pestilence. The cholera, that terrible plague, which has repeatedly scourged other cities, North as well as South, has paid only one visit to the National Capital; yellow fever, we believe, has never made its appearance. Small-pox has never produced a panic; and notwithstanding the many swamps, marshes, and standing pools by which the sparsely-peopled city is surrounded,



WASHINGTON, FROM THE DOME OF THE CAPITOL.

the whole family of febrile diseases barely gives wholesome exercise to the physicians.

It was argued by those who favored the location of the capital on the Potomac that it was important for the Legislature and Government to be beyond the control of large commercial cities. It was insisted that at Philadelphia or New York the ruling powers would be liable to intimidation by mobs, and to be biased in their acts by the proximity of wealthy merchants and bankers. How keen must have been the strife for the settlement of this question we may learn from the contemporary newspapers and correspondence, as well as from the various magnificent plans for laying out the city and for building the public edifices; showing that the prize must have been regarded by all interested in the location as of incalculable pecuniary value. It may serve to allay any alarm that may have been created in rural districts by the large sums recently expended on the improvement of the capital to remind the reader that, even to this hour, great as have been the expenditures of the last five or six years, many of the plans submitted by General Washington have not yet been attempted; although perhaps the size of the buildings, which the unparalleled and unexpected growth of the country has forced the nation to construct for the public service, far exceeds the wildest speculations of the projectors of the city.

Our engraving is a faithful representation of the new Capitol. The corner-stone of the old Capitol was laid on the 18th of September, 1793, by George Washington, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens, public officers, the Masonic fraternity, and many military companies. The building was designed by Dr. William Thornton, who, although not a professional architect, was well versed in architectural matters. His plan had been submitted to the President the previous year, and was approved, but referred to Mr. S. Hallet, who, after some slight changes in the design, commenced the construction of the edifice. He was soon removed, and his place supplied by Mr. Hadfield; who, in turn, was superseded by Mr. James Hobson, the architect by whom the President's mansion had been erected. Under Mr. Hobson's direction the north end of the building was completed. Again the designs were modified, but this time to a much greater extent, by Mr. Latrobe, who, in 1803, was appointed by President Jefferson architect of the Capitol.

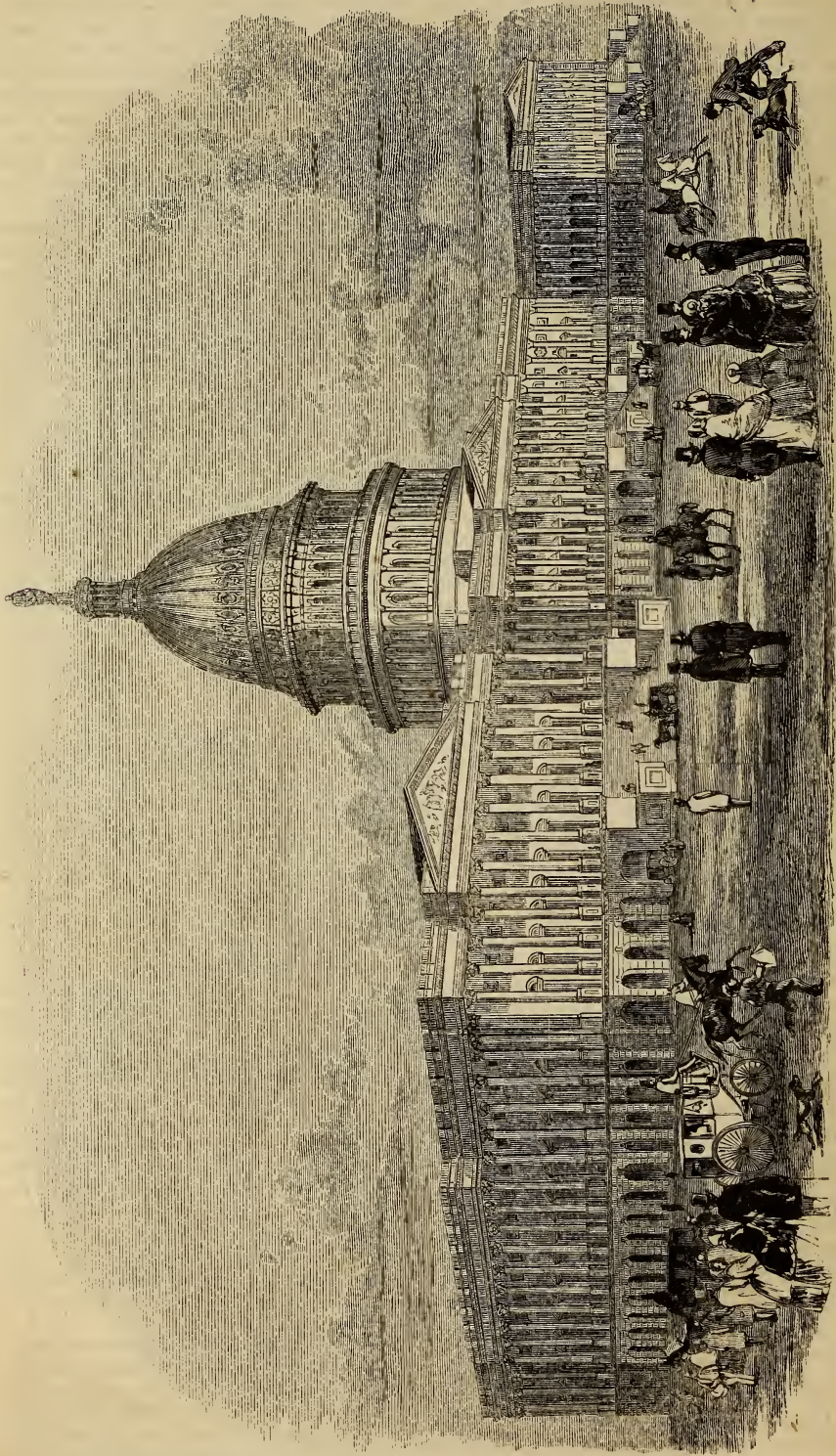
In 1811 the south wing was completed; but the breaking out of hostilities between England and the United States caused a suspension of the work. It was in this unfinished condition when those ever-to-be-deplored acts of spoliation took place which were more disgraceful to the British arms than injurious to this country.

When peace was restored, Mr. Latrobe having resigned his position, President Monroe appointed Mr. Bulfinch to fill the vacancy, and under his faithful oversight the work was at last completed in 1825. The length of the old Capitol,

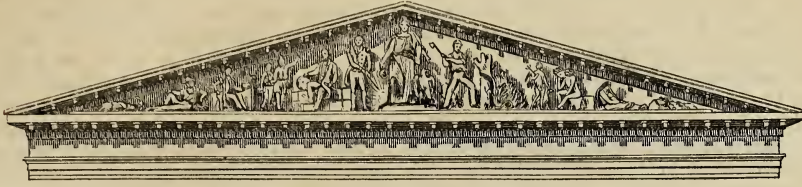
which now forms the centre of the new edifice, is 352 feet 4 inches; in width, the wings are each 121 feet; and the centre, including the portico and steps, is 290 feet deep. The west front has a receding loggia 100 feet in length, and containing ten columns. This recessed portico is approached through the library, and affords a magnificent view of the city and its environs; southward, the vision is carried to Alexandria, Fort Washington, old Arlington (the seat of the late Mr. Custis), and along miles of the beautiful sloping banks of the Potomac. In the city, right under the spectator's gaze, are the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Monument, the Patent-Office, the Observatory, the Treasury Department, and various beautiful edifices, while in Pennsylvania Avenue, from the Capitol to the White House, he sees the panorama of life reduced to a mimic scale. The rotunda is 96 feet in diameter, and was surmounted by a dome, shown in the engraving of the Capitol, in *Harper's Monthly* for December, 1852, but now demolished to make way for the noble construction which is to replace it. The new dome will rise 241 feet above the building, which is itself 69 feet in height, making 310 feet above the level of the ground, to which must be added the terracing, which increases the height above the ordinary level 86 feet, making a total elevation of 396 feet, being 4 feet less than the height of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and 36 feet less than St. Peter's at Rome.

The original building was constructed of a very poor yellow sandstone, obtained in the neighborhood, and it was found necessary to paint it, both to preserve it and, if possible, to beautify it. The extensions are of white marble, which is procured from the State of Connecticut, and it is a matter of great importance that as soon as possible the sandstone in the old walls may be replaced by the same stone that the new portion of the building is constructed of, and that here and at the Patent-Office the really grand design may not be marred by a want of uniformity in the materials. The extensions are connected with the old building by very fine corridors, each 44 feet in length, and 26 feet wide, with outside colonnades, consisting of four columns, making a total width of 56 feet. The new wings, which constitute the extension, are each 324 feet in length from east to west, and 152 feet wide from north to south, making the total length of the new building, comprising the old edifice, the corridors, and the width of the extension, 745 feet 8 inches. The corner stone of the south wing was laid with very imposing ceremonies by President Fillmore, on the 4th of July, 1851, and the occasion was made memorable by the delivery of an eloquent oration by Daniel Webster.

The whole building has a rustic basement, supporting an ordonnance of Corinthian pilasters. A noble portico, 160 feet in length, supported by a double row of columns, each 30 feet high, adorns the centre on the east front, and furnishes a fitting Forum for the inauguration of the Presidents



THE CAPITOL.



PEDIMENT OF THE NORTH WING.

of the Republic. This is really the main entrance to the Capitol, although from its relation toward the city it is generally supposed by strangers to form the rear of the building. A grand flight of steps leads us up to the porch, which contains two singularly inappropriate representations of Peace and War (by Persico); War being represented by an individual in ancient armor who, despite his Roman garb, seems to have violated the military law by falling asleep at his post; while Peace, though clad like a lady, has a more masculine and forbidding countenance than we usually assign to the gentle goddess. The Discovery of America is fitly symbolized by the figure of Columbus with a miniature globe in his hand, while an Indian maiden crouches at his feet; the latter work is by the same artist, and does more justice to his fame. On the other side, the early struggles of our Pioneers are symbolized by a group representing the rescue of a mother and an infant from the scalping-knife of an Indian; executed by Greenough. Overhead is a pediment 80 feet in length, ornamented with a group of statuary, representing Liberty, attended by Hope and Justice, while in the beautiful garden which lies before the portico is Greenough's colossal statue of Washington.

On the eastern or main side of the new wings are porticoes in the centre of the façade, supported by twenty-two Corinthian columns; the pediment of the north wing (which contains the Senate chamber) is one of the triumphs of American art; it contains twelve exquisite figures, designed by the lamented Crawford, and executed in American marble by Italian artists resident in Washington. In the centre of this beautiful work of art is the genius of America, behind whom the rising sun typifies youth and prosperity, and on either side are figures emblematic of the mechanic, the pioneer, the soldier, youth, education, commerce, the hunter, the Indian chief and his family (whose posture near a grave, with the abandoned tomahawk by his side, sadly pictures the passing away of the aborigines).

On the western front of both wings are porticoes, 105 feet in width, with Corinthian columns. On the south side of the south wing, and also on the north side of the north wing, there are porticoes 121 feet in width, and having ten Corinthian columns. The exterior of the edifice is one of the finest achievements of architectural science in modern times. Without the pretension of the British Houses of Parliament, it stands grand, solitary, overlooking the city, while on the highest point, a landmark visible far down the

river, is to be, unmoved by storm and sunshine, the last and best work of Crawford, the colossal figure of "America," crowned with stars, bearing the arms of the warrior and the wreath of victory, and forming a fitting apex for the majestic fabric!

The present inclosure around the Capitol contains only thirty-five acres, a space quite too contracted to permit the construction of the ornamental grounds necessary to do justice to a building which itself covers 62,000 square feet. The necessity for purchasing several squares of land adjoining the present grounds is so manifest, and has been so frequently admitted by the successive administrations, that persons owning the property necessary for the enlargement have from year to year delayed the erection of buildings, so that at this time the houses immediately surrounding the Capitol are of the commonest sort, with a few exceptions. During the thirty-fifth Congress an attempt was made to bring the negotiations to a close, but although well advanced when the adjournment occurred, the all-absorbing Kansas discussion occupied so much time that this important matter was again deferred. It is to be hoped that the new Congress about to assemble may determine to purchase the required land; for as the matter lies, it commits a double injustice. The demand for land for the erection of first-class dwellings has been forced to seek the west end of the city, from the prospect that Congress will condemn the larger part of "Capitol Hill;" while, on the other hand, the value of the property is annually increasing, and public policy would seem to dictate an early purchase, because the public necessity should be supplied with the least expense.

The interior decorations would require more space for their description than we can afford in a single article; the corridors and committee rooms are richly ornamented, the visitor walks upon the finest encaustic tiles, carved marble columns are on either side of him, and beautifully frescoed and gilded ceilings are over his head. The Representatives' Hall, in the south wing, is 139 feet long, and 93 feet wide, and although at first regarded as too ornate, in a few years, when time shall have toned the colors, it will be found as nearly faultless in its ornamentation as can be expected from so vast an undertaking. The criticisms upon its acoustic properties we believe to be exceedingly unjust; standing in the clerk's desk we have found no difficulty in being distinctly heard, with a very moderate exercise of our vocal powers, in any part of the vast cham-

ber. The true reason of the imaginary acoustic defects will be found, we fancy, in the absurd arrangement for giving each member a desk. On the opening of the next Congress a very salutary and long-desired reform is to be inaugurated by the removal of all reading and writing facilities from the floor of the House. Formerly, instead of watching the debates, each member was engaged in franking, writing, or reading his correspondence. The business of the country will be expedited, and the comfort of the members vastly enhanced, by the adoption of the English system. Moreover, being brought into near contact, less space will be required; and having no unnecessary noises to distract

their attention, members will find the new hall a very easy place to speak and hear in. A new plan of lighting the hall from above has been introduced, and is found to work admirably, except that the heat generated by the burning gas is sometimes very oppressive. The arrangements for heating and ventilating are excellent, and reflect great credit upon the architects. The new Senate Chamber is even richer in its appearance than the Hall of Representatives. It was occupied last winter, and gave entire satisfaction; the Senators, however, vacated their cheerful hall in the old building with great reluctance, and still regret the loss of their old-fashioned fire-places and the pleasant outlook from the windows. The approaches to these two halls are worthy of the great nation whose strength the Capitol so well symbolizes. The display of marbles, all from American quarries, could hardly be surpassed by any of the older countries. But, delightful as we find the theme, we must leave the description of the interior, with a single word of thanks to the architect, Mr. Walter, and the superintendent, Captain Meigs, for the excellent service they have done the State.

The Congressional Library, which was destroyed in 1851, has been replaced by a perfectly fire-proof building of great beauty, in which a superb collection of books is already classified and arranged. Immediately after the destruction of the former Library, Congress made an appropriation of \$75,000 for the purchase of books; the judicious expenditure of this sum, and the annual appropriation of \$7500, places at the disposal of Congress a very large and excellent library, to which access is, by courtesy, granted to literary men and others. The necessity for such an arrangement was foreseen by Mr. Jefferson, who succeeded in obtaining about 2500 volumes, which were all consumed in the British raid upon Washington in 1814. Under the management of the very efficient Joint Committee of Congress the present Library bids fair to become all that could be desired in a national collection of books.

In the article to which we have twice referred the hope is expressed that in five or six years what is known as the Mall would be improved so as to furnish a park worthy of the capital of the great republic; but, alas! even while the anticipation was being penned the master-spirit of that noble enterprise was passing through a painful exit from the beautiful, which always surrounded him below, to the beautiful above. In the melancholy death of Downing, America lost a man who had the wide vision to perceive, and the genius to execute, a work such as always have done honor to the nation. Since his decease but little has been done toward beautifying the space between the Capitol and the Potomac which is set apart for the people's park. It is only justice, however, to except the Congressional green-house, which has been vigorously and untiringly advocated and fostered by the Hon. James A. Pearce, Senator from Maryland,



"AMERICA," THE APEX OF THE DOME.

whose refined taste and true gentlemanly instincts make him the unwavering friend of all that appertains to literature, art, or beauty. Under his judicious management the Congressional green-house, instead of being a mere flower-shop, has become, in floriculture, a central influence felt to the remotest verge of the country, wherever people love flowers, and wish to increase the number or virtue of these gentle ministers of the good and loving in nature.

Midway of the Mall stands the Smithsonian Institution, which has undergone little change, except that the various objects of curiosity, including articles brought home by the Japan and other exploring expeditions, have been removed from the Patent-Office, and placed here. In front of the building is the monument erected to the memory of the lamented Downing.

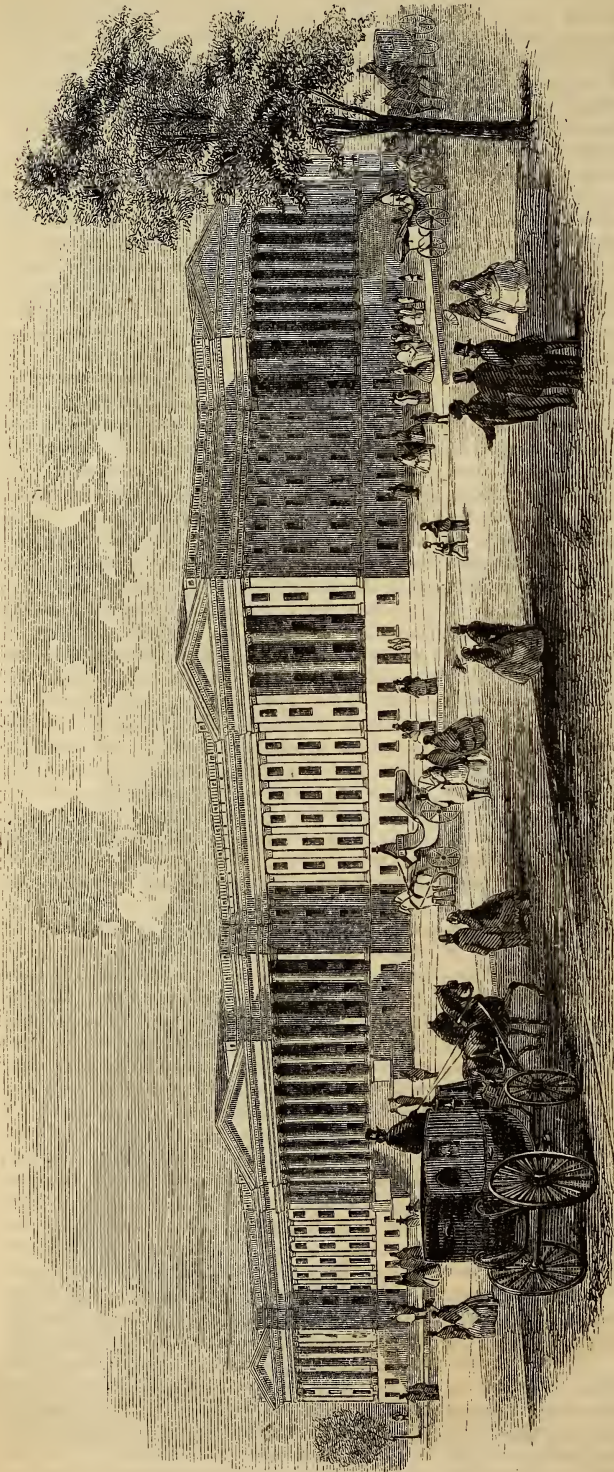
Just beyond the Smithsonian Institution, going toward the President's mansion, is the unfinished shaft which was originally intended to be a monument to Washington; but the spacious gallery which was to furnish us an American Walhalla exists only on paper, and the shaft seems to grow no higher. However, as the direction of this commendable enterprise has been recently returned to its original managers, we hope for more active measures. It would be a relief to those who have seen this unfortunate affair day after day, for seven years, to witness some energy expended upon it, even if it were only to pull down what has been erected.

In point of magnitude the extension of the Treasury Department, so as to form a suitable building for the Department of State, is, perhaps, the greatest undertaking at present in progress. The following engraving shows the south and west fronts of the new edifice. The work has been going on about three years, and is rapidly approaching completion. The original building is 342 feet long, fronting on Fifteenth Street, immediately east of the President's mansion. It presented an unbroken colonnade, the ends having been purposely left unfinished with the expectation that the present extension would ultimately be built. It produced a very unsatisfactory impression on the mind of the spectator, the imposing nature of the attempt not being fulfilled in the execution. The style of architecture is that known as Grecian Ionic—a perilous selection, for the attempts made in this country and in Europe to apply the Grecian style of architecture, either to public or private edifices of the present day, have generally been failures, so far as harmony, appropriateness, simplicity, and gracefulness are involved. Neither the taste nor the invention of the architects have usually been able to retain the spirit of the original when applied to buildings constructed for modern use.

Perhaps in no case is this more strikingly exemplified than in the old part of the Treasury building, as it stood when the extension commenced. The east front was a portico or colonnade, consisting of a long, uninterrupted line of

Grecian Ionic columns, adopted for this work from the most elaborately ornamented examples of that order, but deprived of their entases, and mostly denuded of their proper ornamentation; both of which are essential to give to the columns their true dignity, grace, and character. Those columns are placed upon a perfectly plain base or podium, forming the basement story of the building, to light the rooms in which its face is pierced between the columns with plain rectangular openings for windows. This podium has neither base, die, nor cornice, but rises smooth from the foundation, and is terminated at the top by the square arris or edge of the portico floors; nor have the windows in it any casings whatever. To add to its uncouthness, when an entrance to the building through the colonnade was required, it was found necessary to bring forward the podium some seven feet, as a screen to the stairs and platform required for the use of the public; thus making an unfortunate adjunct to the architecture of its façade. The wall under the portico (in Grecian architecture known as the wall of the cell) has a series of antæ, or pilasters, which correspond with, and are immediately in rear of, the columns. These antæ should have had a close correspondence, in style and character, with the columns; but by depriving their capitals, in a great measure, of their ornamentation, they detract from the beauty and harmony of other parts, to which they ought to add relief and support. In each of the spaces between the antæ are three openings, one above the other, for windows and doors, the upper tier being but one half the size of the two below. The three openings for doors are characterized by a very meagre architecture, not at all in keeping with the style of the building.

The entablature of the columns exhibits the fewest faults of any part of the arrangement, and the balustrade is tasteful and appropriate. The ordonnance of the rear of the old building consists of a Grecian Ionic anta or pilaster of the same intercolumniation, derived from the same example of the order as the east front. But the capitals, though composed of the same moulding, lack the necessary embellishment to give them distinctive character, and to harmonize them with other architectural parts of the building. The design for the extension, as prepared by T. U. Walter, Esq., upon the plan suggested by the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, Senator from Virginia, and approved by committees of both branches of Congress, gave the general outline, in most respects corresponding with the old part; but the details varied so much that it was not possible to harmonize them, or intelligently carry them out. This led to the decision not to confine the details of the extension strictly to the details of the old building, but to make them such as would give the best effect to the style of architecture. It then became a question how far deviations could safely be made from the original work without departing from the principles of good taste. By reference to various buildings, ancient and modern, it was found that



SOUTH AND WEST FRONTS OF THE TREASURY EXTENSION.

great latitude has always been used in architectural details. And if authority is wanted, sufficient is found in the single example of the Erechtheum (the temple of Minerva Polias, and the Pandrosium being but parts of it), to warrant far greater deviations than it has been found necessary to make in this case. The general design of the exterior was to flank the eastern front of the old building by pavilion terminations of the south and north wings, projecting some seven feet in front of the face of its columns. By this means it was to a great extent isolated from the extension, and all necessity for following its details avoided. Thus being left at liberty to make any judicious changes, the first point was to arrange the basement story so that it would not be liable to the objections of dampness, want of light and ventilation, incident to the old part. To effect this the floor was lowered two feet, which the gradual slope of the ground renders appropriate, and thereby the story is increased to 13 feet in height, and the windows, instead of being square and unsightly holes, are enlarged to proportions suggestive of comfort and elegance. Beneath this basement there is a cellar 12 feet in height. By this arrangement there is an extra wall of hammered gneiss extending from one foot above the cellar bottom to the grade of the surrounding ground. The walls of the extension, from the bottom of the cellar to the top of the building, viz.: cellar, basement, second and third stories, with the attic above, are of

hammered granite. For the cellar wall the coarse granite, or gneiss, from the quarry at Port Deposit, Maryland, was originally selected, on account of its strong and durable character; but, after innumerable delays, it was found that sufficient quantities from that quarry could not be delivered with a rapidity consistent with economy in the prosecution of the work. Attempts were then made to obtain it from other points in the vicinity, and also from Richmond, Virginia, but without success; and the superintendents were compelled to procure much of the large stone for this purpose from the same quarries from which the material for the superstructure is delivered. The entire granite for the superstructure, and most of that for the foundations, is obtained from a quarry at Dix Island, near Rockland, off the coast of Maine. This is a barren island of granite, cresting out of the ocean, about five miles from the main land. The large blocks of granite taken from that quarry have a beauty, compactness, and uniformity nowhere else equaled in the world. So steep and sheer are the sides of the island that vessels drawing thirty feet of water come in direct contact with it, and the large masses of rock are quarried out and swung aboard without intermediate hauling. Vessels of peculiar construction and of great strength are made for the special purpose of shipping the immense pilasters, columns, and other large stones to Washington. The absence of all necessity for land-carriage renders this stone cheaper than that from Quincy and other places, much nearer the seat of Government than Dix Island.

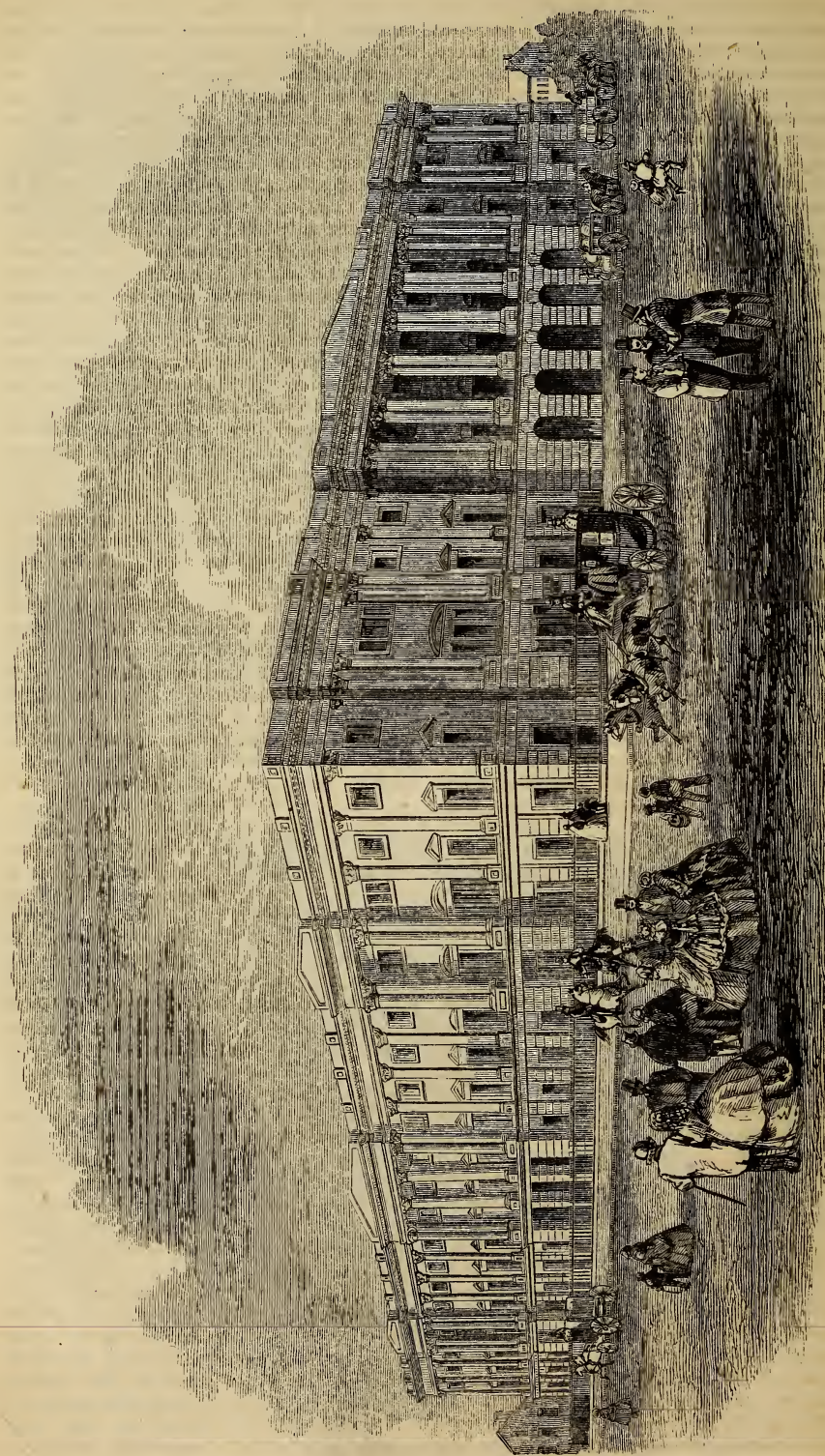
The walls of the Treasury Extension above

the cellar, are: a basement story forming a stylobate, and, resting on it, an ordonnance of antæ of the Grecian Ionic order, 45 feet in height. The stylobate is intended to be decidedly of a Grecian character, its base, die, and cornice, are beautiful in themselves, but as here brought together they have an effect peculiarly appropriate and pleasing. The window openings in the die are managed so as to give them all the character needed, without loading them with ornament; and the whole arrangement of sills and piers, and the continued cornice, which serves as a window cap, is entirely novel. The antæ, and the filling of the spaces between them, are so arranged as to accomplish the very difficult combination of the adaptation of Grecian architecture to modern uses, without spoiling its inherent beauties. The style of architecture is more fully preserved, and its design carried out by the use of single blocks for the columns and antæ. These enormous masses are raised by means of machinery, designed by the superintending architect of this work, and used in raising the pillars of the Boston Custom-house, which was also built under his superintendency. The arrangement of the interior of the new building varies essentially from that of the old, and from public offices generally, in being divided into larger and more commodious rooms. Instead of the narrow, cell-like apartments, with one or at most two windows, into which the public departments in Washington are subdivided, the Treasury Extension will present the health-promoting novelty of spacious and airy saloons, capable of accommodating the clerical force of a bureau. The superintending architect has made

a laudable and successful attempt to nationalize the interior embellishments, without in any degree impairing the general architectural effect. Indeed, in many cases, the elegance and symmetry of the details are improved by his national adaptations; for instance, the moulding, known as the "egg and dart," is substituted by an acorn and Indian's arrow-head; and while the transformation is too slight to alter the general effect, the symbols to the close observer are more satisfactory because more significant. This attempt to characterize by some well-known American emblem the leading points of the ornamentation, has also been successfully applied to



AMERICAN CAPITAL IN THE INTERIOR OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT.



THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE, NORTH AND EAST FRONTS.

the elaborate capitals of the interior columns. In these, while the general character of Grecian architecture is followed, in the composition the national eagle is made to perch proudly under each of the graceful volutes, surrounded by other characteristic emblems, adroitly blended, so as to produce an effect similar to other composite capitals adapted to this style.

In this way, through the whole interior, the common error has been avoided of adopting for the ornamentation the stereotyped scroll work, which, though graceful in itself, has no special significance, and has, besides, been degraded by its uniform application to the decoration of eating saloons and barbers' shops. In its place elegant designs of fruits, flowers, and other products of the American soil have been substituted. These details were designed by A. B. Young, Esq., the supervising architect. The old unfinished edifice was 342 feet in length, from north to south, the building as enlarged is 465 feet long, exclusive of the porticoes, by 266 in width; when completed it will present four fronts upon as many streets; and the long rectangular space between these four fronts is subdivided by a centre building, extending from east to west, into two courts, each about 130 feet square. These large interior courts, which are essential to the occupants of the range of interior apartments for purposes of light and air, will be adorned by grass, flowers, and the play of fountains of pure water.

The material of the old building is a very inferior, as well as unsightly sandstone, similar to that of which the old portions of the Capitol and Patent-Office and the President's House are constructed. Paint and putty, or mortar, have been resorted to for the double purpose of preventing disintegration, and of disguising the deformities of the walls; and in all the cases, except that of the Treasury, with decided success. Numerous, or, more properly, innumerable holes, from the size of a pea to that of an apple, have been plugged, and the sickly yellow of the stone in the other buildings has been covered by pure white. But less taste has been displayed on the Treasury. The columns and the pilasters are a pale or whitish yellow, and the walls between the pilasters are a dark yellow, or brown color. The gray granite basement has also been desecrated with paint, whether for the sake of uniformity or variety it is difficult to say—the result a very pale blue, being near enough to that of the colonnade above to leave the matter in doubt.

The General Post-Office has been enlarged by extending the building around the entire square, leaving a court-yard in the centre of 95 feet by 194 feet for light and air. The architectural style is palatial, and the order a modified Corinthian. The columns of the new portico each consist of a single block of Italian marble very beautifully chiseled, the capitals are of the same material, the design and the execution of these columns affording the most cheering evidence of the advance of American Art. On the Seventh

Street front there is an open vestibule, the ceiling of which is composed of richly ornamented marbles, supported by four marble columns in the Doric order; the walls, niches, and floors, are also of marble, all being finely polished except the floor, which is richly tessellated in white and black. This is the grand entrance for the General Post-Office department, and harmonizes with the entrance to the Patent-Office which is on the next block north in the same street. The entrance for the mail wagons on Eighth Street consists of a grand archway, the spandrels of which are ornamented with sculpture representing Steam on one side, and on the other Electricity, while a mask representing Fidelity forms the key-stone. The F Street front is arranged for the accommodation of the City Post-Office; it has a deeply-recessed portico in the centre, consisting of eight columns grouped in pairs, and flanked by coupled pilasters, supporting an entablature which girts the entire work. The portico is supported by an arcade, which furnishes the most ample convenience for the delivery of letters to the public. Mr. T. U. Walter, the architect of the Capitol, who designed this extension of the Post-Office, has given the best evidence of his ability to discharge fitly his important obligations to the people, in the excellent arrangements he has here devised to combine simplicity, convenience, and beauty. We doubt if there is a building in the world more chaste and architecturally perfect than the General Post-Office as now completed. Without the imposing grandeur of its neighbor the Patent-Office, it is so symmetrical, and the details so faithfully executed, that it carries us back to the palmy days of Italian Art.

The immense building which is devoted to the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Patents, Indian Affairs, and General Land Office, has been enlarged, and its capacity more than doubled, the extension being demanded by the incredible amount of business transacted in the Department. We have not at hand the statistics of the patents issued in America since the establishment of the Government; but we venture to say that, startling as is the following statement, which we extract from a work published under the authority of the British Government, of the increase of the mechanical development in that country, the same period in American history would exhibit a more remarkable evidence of the wonderful impetus which the last century has given to material progress. In Great Britain,

From 1610 to 1700 there were patented	267 inventions.
" 1700 to 1800 " "	2,067 "
" 1800 to 1851 " "	11,000 "
" 1851 to 1855 (only four years)	10,000 "

Admitting only a similar increase in the patent business of our country, bearing in mind the constant and rapid opening of the Western wilderness to civilization, and the majestic Patent-Office, as now completed, will not seem unduly magnificent. It stands indeed as a very hopeful and significant sign of the growth, en-



THE PATENT-OFFICE.

terprise, and keen intellect of the nation. On a clear moonlight night there is nothing more beautiful than this immense edifice of pure marble, glistening with the moonbeams, and almost speaking to the beholder of the vastness of his country's power and the worth of its Union. The order of architecture in which this grand edifice is built is Grecian Doric; there are porticoes on the south, east, and west sides—the south portico being copied from the Pantheon. The total height is 74 feet 11 inches; it is 275 wide by 406 feet 6 inches long. In the third story are saloons for the exhibition and preservation of models, although until recently the space was occupied by an immense collection of curiosities which is now more properly deposited in the Smithsonian Institution.

We have been thus particular in describing these new buildings, because the architecture and taste of the nation ought to be represented by its public edifices. If it is true that the architecture of a people records their mental and moral condition, then certainly the contrast between the new and the old public buildings in Washington must be gratifying to every patriot. And we say this, not only as regards the greater size, but the marked regard for truthfulness in the designs, and the employment of material. We regret that at the Capitol, Treasury, and Patent-Office, the granite and marble should still be obliged to endure the company of the wretched sandstone used in the older portions of those buildings, and we are not without hope that the day is not far distant when this decaying stuff will be removed to make room for stone that needs neither paint nor putty to make it enduring. Unfortunately the General Post-Office, though built of marble, exhibits two very distinct kinds in the old and in the new portions of the edifice.

There is one other public work, which has just been completed, to which we beg briefly to call the reader's attention. The idea of supplying the City of Washington with water by an aqueduct extending to the Great Falls of the Potomac, is an enterprise which dates back to the beginning of the Federal Capital. It was a part of the original plan, approved and submitted to Congress by President Washington, and was then considered necessary as a safe-guard against fires, as well as for the purposes of health, convenience, and ornament. In that plan large and beautiful parks were to be laid off around the public buildings, to be ornamented with trees and shrubbery, and to be refreshed with fountains. It was probably Mr. Jefferson who proposed the Great Falls as the most proper source of the supply. His residence in France had given him large and liberal ideas as to the scale upon which such works should be planned, and satisfied him, economist and strict constructionist as he was, that any thing small or contracted in the display of national taste would be ten-fold worse than actual barbarism. Those who object to the expenditure of public money upon works of art and ornament about the national capital

do so generally for want of reflection. They ask, "Why should the citizens of Washington be favored above those of all other cities in the Union? Why should the Government build streets, and parks, and aqueducts for Washington, and give not a cent for such purposes to Philadelphia, New York, New Orleans, or St. Louis?" The answer is easy. Nothing is given for the people of Washington. They may reap incidental advantages greater than the citizens of other places, because they have chosen Washington for their abode; but all such expenditures are made in order to render the seat of Government worthy of the nation.

Washington was founded in the wilderness. The President and Cabinet and members of Congress found it difficult to traverse the "magnificent distances," either in carriages or on foot, for many years after the Government resided here. The population was small and poor, and utterly incapable of paving any one of the immense streets, which the accommodation of the public officers demanded. What was to be done? Whose duty was it to provide for the public accommodation? Was it not, and is it not, as clearly the duty of the Federal Government to incur these expenses as to build a Capitol? To this day there is but one street in Washington paved by the Government for more than a few squares. Pennsylvania Avenue, from the Capitol to Georgetown, a distance of about two miles and a half, is the exception. The other paving, save that around the public buildings, has been done by the citizens, and that without the privilege of taxing public property.

It is due to the national dignity that Washington should be, if not a great city, a great centre of whatever is noble and beautiful in architecture and the fine arts. The President could live in a log cabin, and Congress might meet under a tent, in good weather, or perhaps your rigid economist would grant a large square brick building, such as is used for cotton factories. But the public intelligence and taste demand that the halls of legislation and the departments of Government shall be noble in construction and of the best materials; combining the greatest degree of comfort with the highest style of beauty. Any thing short of this would be derogatory to the national character, and for that reason we might almost say unconstitutional! Hence the Capitol, the President's House, and the Departments must be marble palaces, adorned with statuary and painting, and surrounded by parks, and trees, and flowers, and fountains. There should be libraries, and picture-galleries, and museums, and whatever illustrates civilization in its highest walks. This is what people expect to find when they visit Washington, and they never fail to complain when they are in any respect disappointed.

The aqueduct now being constructed was projected during the latter part of Mr. Fillmore's administration. The President, in a letter dated September 13, 1852, committed to the Engineer Department the duty of making a survey and

estimates of the best manner of introducing into Washington and Georgetown "an unfailing and abundant supply of good and wholesome water." Captain Frederick A. Smith, of the corps, was assigned by Colonel Totten, its chief, to the performance of this duty, from which he was removed within a few weeks thereafter by sudden death. He was succeeded on the 3d November of the same year by the present Superintendent of the work, Captain, then Lieutenant, Montgomery C. Meigs, of the same corps. The Report of this officer, dated February 12, 1853, presents an elaborate statement of the advantages of three available sources of supply: Rock Creek, a small tributary of the Potomac, which divides Washington from Georgetown; the Little Falls of the Potomac, at a distance of four miles above the city; and the Great Falls, sixteen miles above. The latter was adopted. To bring the water from this place it was necessary to construct a conduit fourteen miles in length. But the elevation is such as to render pumping unnecessary. The height of the water above the dam which turns it into the aqueduct is 150 feet above high tide at the city wharves; and the inclination of the conduit is only about nine inches to the mile; so that the head of water in the distributing reservoir is nearly 140 feet above tide-water, and 14 feet above the upper floors of the Capitol. The dam across the Potomac is 2100 feet in length and 8 feet in height. The water thus diverted from the river passes by a tunnel or culvert under the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal into a receptacle known as the Gate-House. It is excavated out of the solid rock, and will be surmounted by a structure of beautiful sandstone from the Seneca Quarry, a few miles above. This Gate-House will exclude drift-wood and other foreign substances from the conduit.

The river, from the falls to Georgetown, passes between high ranges of hills, often rugged and precipitous in outline, but always picturesque. "The traveler," says Captain Meigs, "ascending the banks of the Potomac from Georgetown to the Great Falls, would conclude that a more unpromising region for the construction of an aqueduct could not be found. Supported by high walls against the face of jagged and vertical precipices, in continual danger of being undermined by the foaming torrent which boils below, the Canal (the Chesapeake and Ohio) is a monument of the energy and daring of our engineers. The route appears to be occupied, and no mode of bringing in the water, except by iron pipes secured to the rocks, or laid in the bed of the canal, seems practicable. Such were my own impressions; and though I knew that in this age, with money, any achievement of engineering was possible, I thought the survey would be needed only to demonstrate by figures and measures the extravagance of such a work. But," he continues, "when the levels were applied to the ground, I found, to my surprise and gratification, that the rocky precipices and difficult passages were nearly all below the line which, allowing a uniform grade, would natu-

rally be selected for our conduit; and that, instead of demonstrating the extravagance of the proposal, it became my duty to devise a work presenting no considerable difficulties, and affording no opportunities for the exhibition of any triumphs of science or skill."

The obstacles encountered in the construction of the aqueduct may have been less serious than an engineer would have anticipated upon a casual inspection of the ground; but they can not fail to astonish the unscientific spectator; and it is not impossible that Captain Meigs's decided preference for the Great Falls as a source of supply may have caused him, in his report of surveys, from which we quote, to underrate obstacles of which he had in the first instance formed an exaggerated estimate. The original plan was to make the conduit, which was to be tubular in form, seven feet in diameter; but at the same time one of nine feet in diameter was suggested as preferable, and was adopted. The difference of only two feet in the width of the conduit makes the immense difference of nearly two to one in its capacity. One of seven feet will discharge but thirty-six millions of gallons in twenty-four hours, while a nine-foot conduit will supply above sixty-seven and a half millions. The larger dimensions adopted of course adds something to the expense of the work, but not in any proportion to the additional supply of water. There are in all eleven tunnels, some of them several hundred feet in length, and six bridges. The largest of the bridges is one of the most stupendous achievements of the kind in this country. It spans a small tributary of the Potomac, called the Cabin John Creek, by a single arch 220 feet in span, and 100 feet high. The receiving reservoir is formed by throwing a dam across a small stream known as the Powder-Mill, or Little Falls Branch. The dam is of pounded earth and floods above fifty acres, making a reservoir of irregular shape, containing, at a level of 140 feet above high tide, 82,521,500 gallons. The water leaves it at a distance of 3000 feet from the point where it enters, and, in slowly passing across this pool, which deepens to 30 or 40 feet near the exit, it will deposit most of its sediment. The Powder-Mill itself supplies two to three millions of gallons of pure water daily to the reservoir. The estimated cost of the Washington Aqueduct is \$2,500,000, and the daily supply 67,596,400 gallons; the Croton Aqueduct cost \$10,375,000, and furnishes New York with a minimum supply of 27,000,000; Philadelphia is provided with a daily supply of 15,000,000; and Boston with 10,176,570 gallons. These comparisons give the best illustration of the magnitude of the work undertaken and nearly brought to a successful completion at Washington.

In the midst of all the magnificence of the public buildings, it is a little surprising that, with a population of sixty-five or seventy thousand, there should not be a single church whose architecture justifies ever so brief a notice; without exception, the church edifices present an ap-

pearance that would be considered a disgrace to a Western city of twenty thousand inhabitants.

Among the ancients the capital city, or seat of empire, was the State. The denizens of the country, even in the republics, had no political rights except such as the city to which they owed allegiance chose to concede to them. We read of the republic of Athens, not of Attica, of Sparta, not of Laconia, of Carthage, of Rome, and so on, not of the subject provinces. The Roman empire, in the first centuries of the Christian era, embraced nearly the whole of the then civilized world, with a large portion of that which was recognized as barbarous, and all the immense countries from the Pillars of Hercules, or Straits of Gibraltar, on the west, and the frontiers of Caledonia on the north, to the confines of Persia, acknowledged the sway, and bore the name of the imperial city of Rome. Under the more ancient despotisms we discover the same pre-eminence of the cities over the country, in the histories of Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, and the Egyptian capitals. In the modern nations of Europe, which have risen upon the ruins of the Roman empire, new elements of power have come into play—new elements of race, of language, of religion, and of political principles—society, in fact, resting upon a stronger foundation of ideas. The most powerful and extensive of modern empires is not the "London empire," but the British; the power and importance of a whole people are thus recognized in the style of the empire, and London, though perhaps more wealthy and populous than Rome in her palmy days, has less political power than any half-dozen representative boroughs. The city has not made the kingdom, but has grown up with it, and been fostered by its trade. It has been the seat of government immemorially, though not uninterruptedly, simply as a matter of public convenience, and by the choice of the rulers of England. The same may be said of Paris; the proverbial saying that "Paris is France," is a scarcely warrantable exaggeration. Whatever liberties are enjoyed in France, are enjoyed equally by the whole population without regard to locality. The representation is apportioned with reference to population, and we believe that Paris, like London, is not particularly favored in this respect. The American capital, although voted into being by a free people, occupies the anomalous position of being the only one in history which is denied the privileges that are accorded to the meanest hamlet in the remotest department of the empire. For even our Territories may each send a delegate to the National Legislature; and being incipient States, sovereignties in embryo, may look forward to the time when they are to participate in all the privileges of the proudest of the Old Thirteen. Not so the capital. She may rival Rome in populousness, wealth, and magnificence; her citizens may live under the shadow of marble palaces, or promenade on avenues paved with mosaic work, or stroll through gardens shaded with evergreens and exotics, perfumed with flowers, and cooled with fountains and sparkling water.

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falls—but *they can not vote!* They can have no Senators, no Representatives—no voice in the election of President. This anomalous condition of the national capital, so different from the capitals of the ancient republics, illustrates the complete revolution which has taken place in the affairs of mankind and the policy of nations in the course of two thousand years.

We have endeavored to confine our article to a review of existing things, and yet, in examining it, we perceive that we have slightly drawn upon our anticipations; but we are comforted with the reflection that America is entitled to a large use of the future tense. Foreign criticism properly wonders at our constant employment of the phrases, "going to be" and "going to do," but it is also true that abroad—except in Russia—they can only use the past tense; for their noblest monuments and most beautiful surroundings are only the heir-looms and old clothes of departed generations. Their noblest mission is preservation, ours is creation. For a long period Washington expectancy was a laughing-stock for every wandering Englishman, who chose to dish up our national peculiarities in a hash of guide-books, private journals, Münchhausen stories collected in cars and stage-coaches, and confused recollections of three months devoted to diligent examination into the properties of sherry-cobblers, large oysters, and Catawba wine. And yet, at this hour, London is paying a fearful penalty for its neglect of that planning for the future which foreigners thought so ridiculous in the wide avenues and green spaces of Washington. Spacious pleasure-grounds are the best friends of law and order; it is well for the people to play, and the instinct of childhood points to the open air as the best place for recreation. A grass-plot has a magical virtue for "clearing the breast of perilous stuff." During the fierce heat of summer, it is pleasant to see the large concourse of people which pours into the Capitol grounds, or those around the President's mansion, sitting under the shade of the trees, while the Marine Band furnishes the choicest music; and it requires no poetic enthusiasm to picture the coming day when the Mall, stretching from the Capitol to the margin of the noble Potomac, shall be one continuous shade, covered with glorious foliage, and vocal with the rippling of fountains and the song of birds. Then hard-handed toil and weary brains shall find in every sight and sound of beauty not only rest, but hope—hope for the perpetuity of that strong Union which, having created this costly capital, may find it a centre of attraction sufficiently strong to marshal around it the orderly States, and to control even the wildest comets that seek to fly off into new orbits. Then the seat of Government, adorned as becomes the representative city of America—not claiming to be the fountain of power—shall be a beautiful lake, formed by the rills that flow into it from north and south, from east and west, and shall forever mirror, on its placid bosom, the great forms of the mountains from whose sides it is fed.

HOLIDAYS IN COSTA RICA.

BY THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER.



FOREST, WITH COFFEE-CARTS.

I.—PUNTA ARENAS TO SAN JOSÉ.

THE principal entrance at present into Costa Rica is from the Pacific, at Punta Arenas, in the Gulf of Nicoya. The *Columbus*, a deliberate old barque through which a screw has been thrust, brought us, early in March, 1858, from Panama to Punta Arenas in less than three days.

The trip was delightful. The coast-range